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These detached specimens of the contents of this work furnish, however, a very inadequate idea of its real value. There are in it whole sections, the separate sentences of which would furnish texts for as many Bridgewater Treatises. The freshness and originality of the observations, taken from nature herself, and not made up from quotations of preceding writers; the extent of the views, not bounded by any necessity for complying with preconceived or prevalent notions, but capacious as the author's mind itself, and frequently leading the reader into the most interesting under-currents of thought branching off from the great fountain; these are all merits belonging to the work, but not constituting its chief value,—which is, that it is a collection of facts, observed under peculiar advantages, such as have never since occurred, and *that it is at the present day to be consulted for new discoveries.*

Now that Greece is, for the first time since the revival of letters, in possession of a government capable of appreciating scientific investigations, a favourable opportunity offers for preparing an edition of the work, at once worthy of the age in which it was composed, and of that in which we live; and perhaps some individual may be found, possessing a competent knowledge of the Greek language, and of zoology and comparative anatomy, who, after a sufficient examination of the animals now in Greece, shall undertake the task of editing and illustrating this great work. Such a performance, properly executed, would be the resuscitation of a body of knowledge which has lain buried for above 2000 years; and would certainly be no less acceptable to zoologists and anatomists than to the cultivators of classical learning.

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MISCELLANEOUS.

PRIZE QUESTION.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Gentlemen,—Having met with the following announcement in the 'Repertorium der gesammten Deutschen Literatur,' No. XVII. September Heft, 1840, and thinking it might be interesting to some of your readers, I have transmitted it for publication in the Annals.

"The Royal Academy of Berlin wishes that experiments be instituted for the purpose of ascertaining, if only in one plant, in what the physical and chemical effects of the mineral constituents and salts which plants derive from the earth during the process of development consist. The inquiry to be conducted with a special regard both to the substances formed by the decaying parts of the plant and to those excreted by the roots; the object of the whole being to elucidate the question of the conversion of the constituents of the soil, as clay, gypsum, &c., into the structure of the plant." A prize of 300 Thalers (45*l.*) will be awarded to the best paper on this subject which may be written in the German, French, or Latin languages, and must be sent in before the 31st of March 1841. The awarding of the prize to be made in July. Each paper must be accompanied by a motto upon a sealed envelope bearing the writer's name.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

Edwin Lankester, M.D.

Campsall, Feb. 27, 1840.

BOTTLE-NOSED WHALE.

The following detailed account of one of the *Hyperoodons* noticed in the Annals for February last, has been communicated to me by Mr. Henry Johnson, Royal Institution, Liverpool.—Wm. Thompson.

Belfast, May 4, 1840.

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